

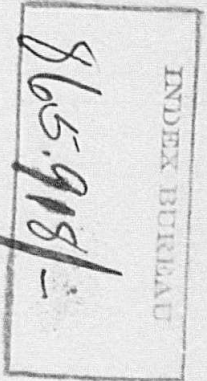
865.918
TELEGRAM RECEIVED.

NATIONAL
ARCHIVES

FROM



Department of State
Rome JAN 22 1918
Dated JAN 24 1918
NEAR EASTERN AFFAIRS
Recd. 3.58pm.



Secretary of State,
Washington, D. C.

1378, January 24, 11am.

Foreign Office states importation and circulation of the following German language newspapers published in United States prohibited; DIELLI, published in Boston, COMMERCIAL WANDERER, of St. Paul, Minnesota, WACHTERUND ANZEIGER, of Cleveland, AURORAUND CHRISTLICHE WOCHEN, of Buffalo.

NELSON PAGE.

FILED
FEB 1 1918

*Supplied to Mr. G.
2 me Jan 29 8M
Rule any*

January 29, 1918.

The Secretary of State presents his compliments to the Honorable the Postmaster General and has the honor to advise him of the receipt of a telegram, dated the 24th instant, from the American Ambassador at Rome in which he states that he has been informed by the Italian Foreign Office that the circulation and importation of the following named newspapers published in the United States in the German language is not permitted:

AURORAUND CHRISTLICHE WOCHEN, of Buffalo

WACHTERUND ANZEIGER, of Cleveland

COMMERCIAL WANDERER, of St. Paul

DIELLI, of Boston.

865.918/ In 7 PM

JAN 30 1918
ALVEY A. ADEE

A copy of
the signed origi-
nal.

ALVEY A. ADEE

865.918/-

INDEX BUREAU
APR 18 1918
Department of State
APR 26 1918
DIVISION OF
NEAR EAST AFFAIRS

2471
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No. 861

Rome, March 26, 1918.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Apr 20 1918

File 651

DIVISION OF FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE
MAY 1 1918
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INDEX BUREAU
865.918/1

FILED
MAY 2 1918

The Honorable
The Secretary of State
Washington.

S i r: -

I have the honor to transmit herewith for your information a translation in triplicate of Regent's Decree No. 346 dated March 3, 1918, concerning the prohibition to send out of the country newspapers, periodicals and printed matter containing advertisements.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant

Thomas Nelson Page

TRANSLATION.

REGENT'S DECREE #345 DATED MARCH 3rd 1918 AND PUBLISHED
IN THE OFFICIAL GAZETTE OF MARCH 23rd 1918, CONCERNING THE
PROHIBITION TO SEND OUT OF THE COUNTRY PAPERS AND PERIODICALS
CONTAINING ADVERTISEMENTS.

Whereas, etc. etc. etc.

ARTICLE I

It is forbidden to send abroad any periodicals or printed
matter containing advertisements. The managements and editors
of newspapers or periodicals, and the editors of printed matter
who intend to continue sending their respective publications
abroad, must get up special editions devoid of all advertising.
The periodicals and the printed matter to be sent abroad must
be verified, in their respective editorial offices, by a censor
and by a postal officer to whom the inspected copies shall be
given for eventual posting. The posting of newspapers, periodi-
cals and printed matter for foreign parts containing advertise-
ments, by the ^{agency} ~~hand~~ of a second person, is forbidden.

ARTICLE II

The editors and managers of papers who send their papers
to foreign countries without having them verified as mentioned
above shall be punished with a fine up to L.10000.00, and they
shall not afterwards have the privilege of sending their papers
abroad even devoid of advertising.

ARTICLE III

The present decree shall take effect on the date of its
publication in the Official Gazette, and shall continue for the
duration of the war.

We order, etc. etc. etc.

(sgd) THOMAS OF SAVOY

AMERICAN FOREIGN SERVICE REPORT

NATIONAL
ARCHIVES

No. 32.

DATE, January 27, 1925.

OFFICE: Embassy, Rome.

GEOGRAPHIC DESIGNATION: Italy.

SCHEDULE No. AND SUBJECT: P.2825. Press censorship.

TITLE: The NUOVO PAESE suspends publication.

SOURCE: NUOVO PAESE of January 24, 1925.

(INITIALS OF OFFICER PREPARING REPORT)

J. A. Jr.

(SIGNATURE OF CHIEF OF MISSION)

Henry P. Fletcher.

REFERENCE TO PREVIOUS REPORTS:

GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

C 1-1088

(From the Embassy's Weekly Despatch No. 304 of January 24, 1925, page 5): "On the 24th instant, the NUOVO PAESE, a comparatively new but able publication, which joined the ranks of the Opposition after the Matteotti murder, suspended publication. It is the first result of the Government's recently adopted press policy. Its editor, Carlo Bozzi, published his swan-song in the final issue, many of the copies of which were sequestered. The text of this statement is transmitted as the Embassy's Foreign Service Report No. 32 of January 27, 1925".

"The following statement of the reasons for the suspension of publication of the NUOVO PAESE may not pass the censor. In such an event, you can insert in the blank columns --"The reasons which led the NUOVO PAESE to suspend its publication are censored". (Bazzi ignores the fact that the present press law does not permit blank columns).

But the declaration will have its effect just the same, since force is only effective when it is applied intelligently and courageously. The gag-system is the negation of both.

We suspend, therefore, our publication because the situation, due

as

INDEX BUREAU

FILED
FEB 21 1925

as much to the Opposition as to Mussolini, has arrived at a check-mate, which makes a polemic battle, which might produce a solution, impossible. We must await the development of the beginnings of the political struggle of tomorrow. It will be a period of active effort -- that goes without saying -- for we are not Mussulmen who confide the solution of their difficulties to time.

Conspiracies? Plots, even if abroad?

The Italian people have seen similar situations for centuries, and through the resulting travail were able to arrive at other and better political methods; but a backward swing of the pendulum may become inevitable if Mussolini wishes to bring us, by holding up the phantom of 1919-1922, back to the days, for example, of 1898-1898.

Mussolini should remember the point of view he held, up to October, 1914, towards this latter period of Italian public life, and realize that it does not behoove him, as the head of a nation, to repeat the error today of considering that he has arrived at the absolute truth. He will not be able to make new converts. Did the extreme left or the extreme right create the conditions of July 29, 1900?....

We have maintained this position of equilibrium, especially during the past six months, and it is not a presumption to assert that if Mussolini and various groups in the Opposition have modified, in certain respects, their point of view, this alteration has been along the lines we have advocated. Since June, 1924, we have felt that the Opposition groups were not acting wisely.... We have criticized in the same manner the other mistakes of the Opposition -- a political mistake -- of appealing to the constitutional Sovereign, who, simply because he is constitutional, cannot deal with the situation on its merits.

which
Mussolini's speech on January 3rd, though six months late, lifted the situation out of a morass on to a clearly defined political field, is a direct consequence of the opinions expressed by the NUOVO PAESE,

and

and only by the NUOVO PAESE, for when we asserted that Rossi and Marinelli could not have got up one morning and alone and suddenly decided to kill Matteotti; when we stated that throwing prominent Fascisti into the sea one by one or in groups was leading to a liquidation of the whole régime through odium rather than by failure -- we were defending the honor of the whole of Italy, rather than having an eye to our personal interest and friendships.

At present the censorship makes it impossible for us to continue the publication of our newspaper. Perhaps others will call this an illusion. A newspaper, as we conceive it, is not an arm tied to one's feet; if we cannot use it, daily and effectively, it is useless.

The NUOVO PAESE will resume publication when its circulation will no longer be subjected to that exercise of arbitrary power which, under the tricolor as under the Red Flag, fools itself in thinking that the use of an extrinsic and fallacious force prevents its inevitable decadence.

When we resume publication -- which cannot be at a distant date -- our readers will find again in the NUOVO PAESE (and this is a pledge I feel able to give in the name of you all, Friends and Colleagues) the same men and the same ideas. Its aim will be to progress in the battle for ideals rather than to remain stationary at the point to which we have already attained.

Copyright 1930, Paris.

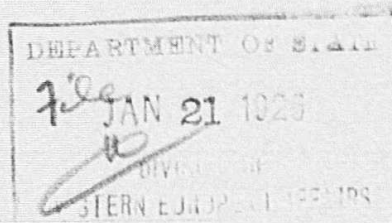


LEGATION OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Oslo, January 4, 1925.

NATIONAL
ARCHIVES

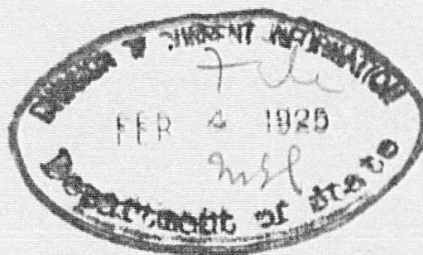
No. 714



For Distribution

The Honorable

The Secretary of State,
Washington, D. C.



Sir:

I have the honor to forward herewith the translation of an editorial entitled "Authority" regarding Mussolini's policy of muzzling the Italian press. I have thought it worth-while transmitting to the Department for its information this editorial, which appeared in a prominent position in "Dagbladet" of January 2, 1926, because the newspaper in which it appeared is virtually the party organ of the Norwegian government now in power.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Laurits S. Swenson.

Enclosure:

1. Translation of an editorial.

891

5

Copy to E. I. C., Paris.

FEB 10 1926
PTT 271

865.918/3

TRANSLATION.

AUTHORITY.

- - - - -

It often happens that politicians in power feel that it is embarrassing to have a free press. Mussolini and his Minister of the Interior Federzoni have wide experience both as journalists and as authorities. They recently decided to take away the freedom of the press. Since yesterday they have been able to open any Italian newspaper with safety - they are all government-owned. The others are outlawed. But strangely enough, when the law to muzzle the press came before the Senate, there were no less than forty-six senators who dared to vote against it. One hundred and fifty voted in its favor. Some of the speakers warned Mussolini against placing great expectations in the new policy. One of them recalled what Il Risorgimento wrote in January 1848, "The press is the most important tool of civilization and progress. A press which is dependent on the government can never acquire that sympathy which is necessary to convince; its very dependence robs its words of the prerequisite authority and hinders it from performing the great and liberating functions which an independent press can perform."

Il Duce can get a "good press" in Italy, and there is at least one correspondent who will surely bring him flowers from distant lands. But it is most probable that there will be very few foreign newspapers which Italians will be allowed to read hereafter. When?

There are already many newspapers written in a closely related tongue which are on the blacklist. The Dictator was given a conception at Locarno of what the press of the world thought of him. He announced on his arrival that he would see

the correspondents in order to express himself. A couple of Fascisti and a couple of Germans turned up. All the others absented themselves as a protest against the muzzling of the non-Fascist press. It is said that the Dictator was exceedingly astonished and that he was in a high temper when he shortly afterwards had to pass through a large crowd of representatives of the Fourth Estate.

Mussolini's mighty press will perhaps strengthen his self-confidence, but Italy will hardly be the better for the loss of free speech at the close of this year. Of course he can manage his numerous departments and lead Italy - as long as he can - without needing advice from anyone - either parliament or press. But it may prove troublesome to be editor of so many newspapers, and moreover it will not be entirely without danger to the Italian Government to stand responsible for all that may hereafter appear in the Italian press.

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 865.00 P. R. /3 FOR 71544

FROM Italy (Robbins) DATED Jan. 20, 1928

TO NAME 1-1127 GPO

REGARDING: Press Reports of Crimes Banned. Intention to raise
standard of Press morality under Fascist regime.

Handwritten: 865-9184
INDEX BUREAU

PRESS REPORTS OF CRIMES BANNED.

It is intended further to raise the standard of Press morality under the Fascist regime. Instructions were issued on January 12th to the newspapers by the Prefect of Rome, and apparently by simultaneous orders from all the Prefects in Italy. The custom of printing photographs of criminals was abolished some time ago, and now new orders are issued to the papers not to print any reports of suicides, so-called "crimes passionels," or sensational crimes. Suicides seem, in fact, to have become alarmingly frequent in Italy, and, reading through the provincial papers and those of the larger towns, it has not been rare to note five or six suicides per day.

The so-called "sensational" crimes have also become very numerous and the authorities judge that the prolix details of such crimes as published are only an encouragement to weak minds or depraved characters to imitate them. Needless to say, all the Fascist papers will obey the new instructions, and the TRIBUNA goes still further by declaring it will refuse to print reports of divorce suits, bigamy cases, murders, highway robberies, police news, or society scandals.

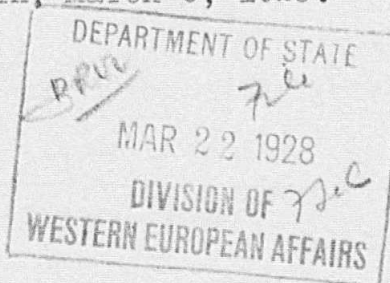


EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

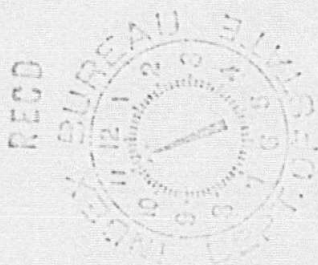
NATIONAL
ARCHIVES

Berlin, March 6, 1928.

No. 3265



FOR DISTRIBUTION - CHECK		Yes	No
To the Field			
In U. S. A.			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



MAR 21 1928

INDEX BUREAU
865-918-5

The Honorable

The Secretary of State,
Washington.

Sir:

I have the honor to report that on March 4, the VOSSISCHE ZEITUNG announced that the Italian authorities had prohibited the entry and distribution of this newspaper in Italy because of its alleged anti-Italian and anti-Fascist attitude. The action of the Italian Government, it appears, was based on certain articles published by

MAR 6 1928

by the VOSSISCHE ZEITUNG in connection with the controversy over South Tyrol. The announcement was accompanied by a long editorial by Georg Bernhard, the chief editor, under the title "Prohibited."

In this editorial Bernhard repudiated the charge that his newspaper was hostile to Italy or Fascism. On the contrary its criticism of Italian rule in South Tyrol and of Fascist Italy had been extremely fair. Both with respect to Italy and Soviet Russia the policy of the VOSSISCHE ZEITUNG had been marked by an attitude of reserve in accordance with the democratic principle that "a people gives itself those laws which it deems proper." He even believed that often the editorial policy of his paper showed more tolerance than many of its readers thought wise. The prohibition was a clear violation of the freedom of the press, but unfortunately there was no freedom of the press in Italy. "The Italian press may write only that which it is ordered to write."

Mussolini himself, continued Georg Bernhard, was often violent and relentless in his criticism of other nations. Yet his actions and achievements had always been discussed in the VOSSISCHE ZEITUNG without bitterness. His genius as an organizer, his passionate eloquence and his sincere patriotism had been readily acknowledged. Fascism and Mussolini could hardly expect more just critics than the editors and correspondents of the VOSSISCHE ZEITUNG. It seemed, however, that Fascist Italy looked upon just critics as especially undesirable and particularly dangerous.

Bernhard.

Bernhard went on to say that various attempts which had been made to get him to write for Italian newspapers had been prompted presumably by a realization in Italy of the international importance of the VOSSISCHE ZEITUNG. Having failed to influence the VOSSISCHE ZEITUNG in this way, the Italian Government was now resorting to pressure.

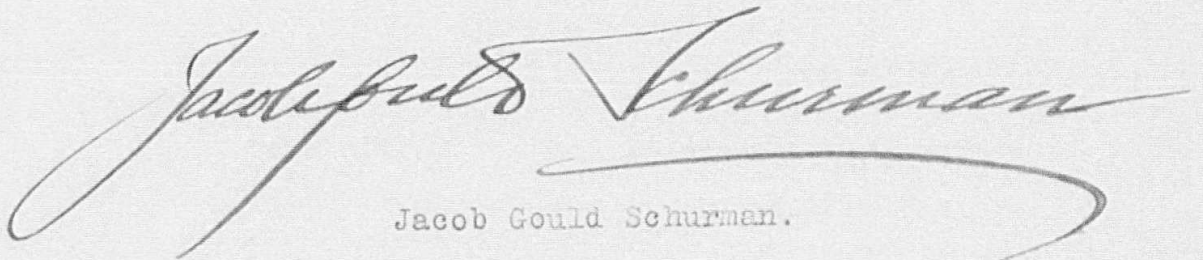
With regard to South Tyrol Georg Bernhard said that a majority of the German press and the VOSSISCHE ZEITUNG in particular desired no Irredenta. However, there could be no compromise or yielding with regard to the demand that the Italians should respect German culture and speech in the Brenner region. Mussolini was constantly making it difficult for newspapers which wished to report the truth to do their duty towards the public. "Perhaps," said Bernhard in conclusion, "Mussolini will some day bring things to such a point that all foreign newspapers attaching importance to an unrestricted reporting of facts will withdraw their correspondents from Italy. The political isolation of Italy from the opinion of the world will then be complete."

The whole German press has of course followed with a lively interest the recent public interchanges between Austria and Italy on the subject of South Tyrol. Most papers have been stirred to indignation by Mussolini's speech; some have touched the soft pedal. The KREUZZEITUNG remarks that this speech is exactly suited to forestall Mussolini's oft-expressed wish to live in friendship with the Germanic world.

world. The Duce ought to know that he cannot exterminate the Germans of South Tyrol and at the same time walk a common path with Germany! The DEUTSCHE ALLGEMEINE ZEITUNG follows the same general line as the KREUZZEITUNG but the TAEGLICHE RUNDSCHAU attributes to the right-radical press of France the suggestion that Mussolini was really attacking Germany. The democratic BERLINER TAGEBLATT writes that it affirms with satisfaction that this time Mussolini avoided by the form and content of his speech everything that would sharpen unnecessarily German-Italian relations. The TAGEBLATT has a like wish to smooth the way for good understanding but it would be useless, it says, to gloss over the fact that the cultural rights of the German population of the South Tyrol are a matter lying close to the national heart of Germany and cannot be lightly touched.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

A large, elegant handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Jacob Gould Schurman". The signature is written in a cursive style with long, sweeping flourishes, particularly on the "J" and the "S".

Jacob Gould Schurman.

Copy to EIC, Paris.

NATIONAL
ARCHIVES

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

INDEX BUREAU

865-9181/6

SEE 811.91265/20 FOR MEMORANDUM

FROM State Dept. A-E (Castle) DATED Apr. 17, 1928
TO NAME 1-1127 GPO

REGARDING: Censorship on foreign correspondents: The Italian Ambassador assured Walter Lipman of THE NEW YORK WORLD that there was no censorship whatever on what foreign correspondents might choose to send out of Italy.

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 865.66a/2 FOR desp.#2384
FROM Italy (Eltcher) DATED July 17, 1929
TO NAME 1-1127 o r o

865.918
17
INDEX LIBRARY

REGARDING:

Controversy between the Church and the State in Italy
over the education of the young.

Objections raised to an article published in a Catholic
paper, sequestration of -- by the Fascist.

Central File: Decimal File 865.918, Internal Affairs Of States, Public Press., Italy, Restriction Of The Press. Censorship., January 29, 1918 - July 17, 1929. January 29, 1918 - July 17, 1929. MS European Colonialism in the Early 20th Century. National Archives (United States). Archives Unbound, link.gale.com%2Fapps%2Fdoc%2FSC5109729224%2FGDSC%3Fu%3Domni%26sid%3Dbookmark-GDSC. Accessed 18 June 2025.